REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is filed with a Request for Continued Examination, and responds to the Office Action mailed on January 19, 2005. Claims 1-8, 10-17, 20-31, 33-36, 38-42 and 44-46 have been amended. A diligent effort has been made to respond to each of the rejections contained in the Office Action. It is believed that this Amendment overcomes those rejections and thus places this case in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, claims 1-46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Microsoft Outlook in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,630,944 to Kakuta et al. Applicants respectfully disagree with these rejections.

The Outlook reference is a traditional email software application that enables a user to initiate a search using pull-down menus to find one or more stored emails that match search parameters entered by the user. The results from the search are then displayed in a list. Emails from the list may be selected by the user for display on the computer screen. The Outlook reference does not, however, disclose a messaging system that <u>automatically</u> filters stored messages to find one or more messages that are related to a current message.

In a previous amendment, each of the independent claims were amended to distinguish the claims from the prior art of record by specifying that certain functions or method steps are performed <u>automatically</u>. In response, the current Office Action concludes that the functions performed by the Outlook reference in response to user input in the drop-down menus "is an automated process." Clearly, the Examiner has misconstrued the Applicants' intended meaning of the claim term "automatically." Each of the independent claims has, therefore, been further amended to more clearly define the claimed invention. For example, claim 1 has been amended to specify that "after the current SMS electronic message is displayed on the viewing screen, the message software interface module is configured to perform the operations of (b) automatically filtering each of the SMS electronic messages stored in the

memory device and (c) automatically displaying the one or more select SMS messages <u>without requiring user input</u>."
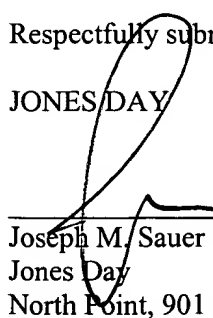
As illustrated in Figure 2 of the present application, automatically displaying the current message 22 in a single message thread 26 with related stored messages 24 enables the wireless device user to easily place the message in context, <u>without requiring the user to perform a manual search with Outlook-style pull-down menus</u>. This is particularly advantageous in a mobile device in which display space is limited and <u>minimal user input</u> is often desired. These same constraints are not present in traditional, computer-based email applications, such as the cited Outlook reference.

In addition, to further distinguish the claims from the cited references, claims 1-8, 10-17, 20-31, 33-36, 38-42 and 44-46 have each been amended to specify that the electronic messages are short messaging service (SMS) messages. Neither the Outlook or Kakuta references address SMS messaging systems.

Having overcome the rejections set forth in the Office Action, Applicants respectfully request a notice of allowance for this application. If there are any remaining issues to be resolved in this application, then the Applicants request an interview with the Examiner in charge of this application to resolve these issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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